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COURT DECISIONS.

CONVICTION FOR VIOLATION OF HARRISON DRUG ACT AFFIRMED.¹

In a case before the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, in which the judgments of conviction against the defendants for violation of the Harrison Narcotic Drug Act were affirmed, the defendants claimed that they acted and relied on a Treasury Decision which was later revoked following a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States construing the Harrison Act. Regarding the contention of defendants that they should not be deemed guilty in view of the fact that they had relied upon the interpretation given to the law by the Treasury Department, the court said:

Assuming that these Treasury Decisions conflicted, and that Decision No. 2200 was wrong and Decision No. 2879 was right and in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court in *Webb & Goldbaum v. United States*, 249 U. S. 96, 39 Sup. Ct. 217, 63 L. Ed. 497, the trial judge was bound to disregard No. 2200; the meaning of the act is authoritatively determined by the court, and not by the Treasury Department. Ignorance of the law excuses no one. It could be no excuse that the defendants relied on a Treasury Decision which was wrong. * * *

SUSPICION IS NOT "REASON TO BELIEVE" A PERSON TO BE INFECTED WITH AN ISOLABLE DISEASE.²

The California District Court of Appeals, Second District, in ordering the discharge of a woman detained in a hospital by order of a health officer because suspected of being infected with a venereal disease, has decided that "more than a mere suspicion that an individual is afflicted with an isolable disease is necessary to give an officer 'reason to believe' that such a person is so afflicted."

DEATHS DURING WEEK ENDED APR. 16, 1921.

Summary of information received by telegraph from industrial insurance companies for week ended Apr. 16, 1921, and corresponding week, 1920. (From the "Weekly Health Index," Apr. 19, 1921, issued by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.)

	Week ended Apr. 16, 1921.	Corresponding week, 1920.
Policies in force.....	45,995,647	43,387,082
Number of death claims.....	8,249	9,927
Death claims per 1,000 policies in force.....	9.4	11.9

¹ *Rothman et al. v. United States*, 270 Fed. 31.

² *Ex parte Shepard*, 195 Pac. 1077.